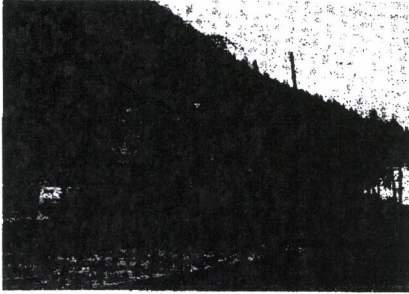


EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 2/4/13  
HB 11



## TOWN OF ALBERTON

P.O. Box 115  
Alberton, Montana 59820  
(406) 722-3404

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

Chairman Ankney and Committee Members,

I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 11, the measure providing funding for all the Treasure State Endowment Program applications. Cities and towns across Montana need financial help improving their infrastructure, and this bill will help to accomplish many deserving projects.

As the Mayor of Alberton, I know that we need TSEP funding to carry out our state mandated wastewater treatment facilities upgrades. Alberton is currently under an Administrative Order of Consent from DEQ to treat our effluent for E. coli. These upgrades will lead to a cleaner effluent being discharged to the Clark Fork River. Alberton's waste discharges just upstream of the beautiful Alberton Gorge area of the Clark Fork River, this is an important recreation area for western Montana boaters who provide a summer tourist industry in Mineral County. Alberton's proposed upgrades will improve the quality of our effluent, which should in turn improve the quality of the river.

These waste water treatment upgrades are only the beginning for Alberton's infrastructure upgrades. Our water distribution system is also in need of attention. The current town government is committed to making necessary improvements to our infrastructure, we just ask for financial assistance from the state. House Bill 11 would be a great first step in helping to fund our needs. I thank you for your hard work and attention to our funding request.

Sincerely,

Joshua Acker

Mayor

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND**

114 A STREET

P.O. 195

DRUMMOND, MONTANA 59832

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

JUNE BOWLS, CARY McLURE

MIKE O'DELL, SAM WEAVER

**MAYOR:**

GAIL LEEPER

**CLERK:**

FRANKIE JONES

Representative Duane Ankey, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

January 31, 2013

Mr. Ankney,

I write this letter to encourage the House Appropriations Committee to fund all of the Treasure State Endowment Projects on the 2015 application ranking list. Drummond is on the list to receive funding through this project and I write to you to express the great need for our community. The Town of Drummond has only 92 taxpayers. This funding would put us in environmental compliance with the mandated sewer project the Town faces. When you consider the cost of the project (\$3,200,000), you will realize the need for this community.

We thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

*Betty June Bowls*

Betty June Bowls  
Drummond Town Council

# **CITY OF BOULDER**

January 31, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: House Bill 11

Dear Representative Ankney;

The City of Boulder is asking you to support House Bill 11, The Treasure State Endowment funding bill for the 2015 biennium. The City of Boulder, as well as other local governments across Montana, needs these funds to support our infrastructures and keep them viable.

Boulder has requested monies to update our failing wastewater collection facility. We are not meeting environmental standards with our current system. The lagoons are filled with sludge, leaking wastewater into the surrounding water table, and being infiltrated by groundwater; making them inefficient, a source of groundwater contamination, and not in compliance with Department of Environmental Quality discharge requirements. A new mechanical wastewater plant, to be located on land given to Boulder by The State of Montana, is proposed to replace our current system.

The City of Boulder worked with Boulder River School and Hospital (BRS&H), now Montana Developmental Center (MDC), to create a cooperative wastewater collection system in the early 1960's. A third lagoon was added to the already existing BRS&H lagoons at that time. Over the years, Boulder became responsible for the maintenance and operation of this 40+ year old system. It currently serves 2 State institutions, MDC and Riverside Correctional, as well as 2 private institutions, Boyd Andrew Treatment Center and Youth Dynamics, Inc. This project is critical to these entities as well as the City of Boulder's citizens.

We ask that you accept the Joint Long Range Planning Committee's recommendation to pass House Bill 11 as it now stands, funding all the projects submitted. Your support of Boulder's project and other local government projects across Montana is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Rick

Rick Streib, City Administrator  
City of Boulder

*304 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 68  
Boulder, Montana 59632*

*(406) 225-3381 phone  
(406) 225-9498 FAX*

## Alec Hansen

---

**From:** Jay Dunckel [dunckel@3rivers.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 8:51 AM  
**To:** mlct@mt.net  
**Subject:** House Bill 11

Rep. Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Rep. Ankney:

I write in support of the applications submitted by the City of Choteau to the Department of Commerce for Treasure State Endowment funding.

We testified before the Long Range Planning committee as to the importance of our receiving this grant.

Choteau strongly urges your committee's support of this bill as the improvements to our waste water treatment lagoon depend on these funds.

Annexation and subdivision in our community are being held up awaiting improvements to our lagoon. The entire project will approach seven million dollars and will create employment in our area as well as our need to move forward as the oil and gas industry moves into our area. We are poised for new growth and new jobs if we can complete this wastewater project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Dunckel, Mayor  
City of Choteau  
Box 619  
Choteau, MT 59422

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No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 2013.0.2897 / Virus Database: 2639/6074 - Release Date: 02/01/13

# *Town of Eureka*

**PO Box 313  
Eureka, MT 59917  
406-297-2123**

January 31, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: Town of Eureka and HB 11 TSEP Funding

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:


On behalf of the Town of Eureka and our community we would like to show our full support in HB 11 and the funding for the 49 projects. The project that the Town of Eureka is receiving funds for came through an unfunded mandated request from MT DEQ and US EPA to upgrade the Town's infiltration gallery by the Spring of 2014. With the assistance of the TSEP funding, the Town will be able to meet the requirements of DEQ and EPA without having to pass along additional costs to the residents of the area.

Eureka has strived to upgrade their infrastructure through a variety of investments from local, state, and federal partners. The unexpected request from the DEQ and EPA offices left the Town in a difficult position financially. The assistance from the TSEP program will enable the Town of Eureka to maintain affordable rates in the community which is constantly seeing the highest unemployment rates for non-reservations in the State of Montana.

Overall, we fully support the efforts of the TSEP program to help communities like Eureka improve and maintain environmental and health safety on infrastructure. Though the project was unexpected the filtration upgrade will ensure safe drinking water for the community for generations.

Please do not hesitate to call our office at 297-2123 or our partner of Eureka Rural Development Partners office at 297-7374 if further information is needed. Thank you for all that you and the members of the Committee do for our State and communities.

Sincerely,



Ethel White  
Mayor



January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: HB 11 and Support for Town of Eureka project

Dear Mr. Chairman Ankney and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Eureka Rural Development Board of Directors I'd like to express our support for the Town of Eureka's Water Treatment Improvement Project that is included in the HB 11. I have been involved in this project for the beginning and understand the frustrations that it has caused the Town. As an active partner of the Town of Eureka's I am fully aware of the financial burden this project could cause the Town as well as the Community without the assistance from the State programs like TSEP. We were pleased to help get in the funding applications to help lessen the burden that the DEQ order has placed on the community and urge the House Appropriations to consider funding this critical project for our town.

We are very supportive of safe drinking water and the well being of our residents that we all serve. However, the costs of these infrastructure requirements are sometimes so out of reach for our rural communities. I commend the Town Council for their dedication and hard work to lessen the impact that this project will have our community.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if there further information you or members of the Committee would like to have. We are in full support for the Town of Eureka project and extend our deepest gratitude for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracy D. McIntyre  
Executive Director



---

# CITY OF MILES CITY

---

17 S. 8th, P.O. Box 910  
Miles City, MT 59301-0910

Telephone: 406-234-3462  
Fax: 406-234-2903

February 1, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

**RE: Miles City TSEP Application - Wastewater Plant Upgrades**

Dear Chairman Ankney,

The City of Miles City is very excited that the House Appropriations Committee is reconsidering and supporting a plan to fund all TSEP applications throughout the State. The projects are so necessary to the communities they serve and this measure will go a long way in easing the burdens that small towns across the State carry in order to provide their citizens a safe and healthy environment.

Miles City's application for upgrades of the Wastewater Treatment Plant addresses environmental compliance as required by changes in DEQ unfunded mandates. When this phase of the project is complete, our Treatment Plant will meet the requirements of MDEQ Circular 2 for solids handling, EPA guidelines for handling of Class B sludge, and elimination of free chlorine into the Yellowstone River by using UV disinfection to treat our discharge waters.

Our project is a fiscally responsible plan that proactively addresses potential rapid growth due to the development of natural resources in the region. The design provides the ability to easily expand for future needs should our population exceed 18,000 people. Additional merits of the project include equipment upgrades, reducing exposure of employees to hazardous materials and reducing potential ground water contamination. Completion of the project will encourage economic development that will bring much-needed jobs to Miles City.

We thank you for this opportunity and anxiously await the final decision.

Sincerely,

Allen Kelm  
Public Utilities Director



## *City of Hamilton*

*223 South Second Street*

*Hamilton, MT 59840*

January 31, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Subject: Request Support for Hamilton TSEP Project for Wastewater  
Treatment Plant Upgrades

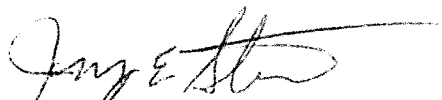
Dear Chairman,

The City of Hamilton is requesting your support to approve the funding of the Treasure State Endowment Program in House Bill 11 as recommended by the Joint Subcommittee on Long Range Planning. Our Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project, Phase II is on the list at number 48. This project is primarily driven by the recently issued DEQ wastewater permit for the City of Hamilton. The permit stipulates the installation of a ultra-violet (UV) disinfection system to eliminate the use of chlorine and meet strict chlorine residual in our outflow by January 2015. The permit requirements triple the lab testing activities and the need to expand our lab and upgrade our equipment. This project also replaces the three blowers that provide critical air to our aerobic digesters. As you are aware, nitrates and phosphorous were the primary nutrients addressed in the last legislative session and the upgraded blowers will increase the effectiveness of process treatment for nitrates and phosphorous.

The construction of this \$2.3 million project is within the capabilities of many contractors in the Bitterroot Valley and will generate badly needed local jobs. A rough estimate of job creation (based on previous city projects) is 20 to 23 direct jobs and an equal number of secondary jobs.

Without this grant funding, the city will have to significantly reduce the scope and defer some of the blowers and lab equipment to a future project. The city recently instituted an 8% rate increase per year for three years in anticipation of the proposed project. The rate increases alone will not cover the costs of the project. The city will also be expending any non-emergency cash reserves that have been accrued for the plant upgrade. Even so, the city does not have the resources to fund a project of this magnitude. The Treasure State Endowment Program grant of \$750,000 is key to the financing of the wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

Thank you,



Jerry E. Steele, Mayor



**Alec Hansen**

---

**From:** Mayor Jerry Steele [Mayor@CityOfHamilton.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 5:51 PM  
**To:** mlct@mt.net  
**Subject:** TSEP GTRANTS

Chairman Duane Ankney, I am writing this letter in support of funding for all the TSEP project requests this year. I am sure you know that without these types of grants smaller communities are not going to be able to fund major infrastructure projects as they don't have the tax base or their residents can't afford the rates that would be imposed for services. I urge your committee to support funding the entire list of projects by doing so you help to make communities better and safer for all Montana residents. Sincerely yours Jerry E. Steele Mayor - City of Hamilton.

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 2013.0.2890 / Virus Database: 2639/6070 - Release Date: 01/31/13

# ***Town of Lodge Grass***

Incorporated in 1927

P.O. Box 255

Lodge Grass, Montana 59050

Phone: (406) 639-2362 Fax: (406) 639-9134

January, 30, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee


As the Mayor of Lodge Grass, I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit this letter to the House Appropriations Committee regarding the Town of Lodge Grass Wastewater Improvements Project. This project is necessary to address our aging wastewater system. Though the Town of Lodge Grass has been and continues to make improvements to the system, we simply cannot afford the costs of this project. The Town wastewater system cannot meet the very stringent EPA and DEQ wastewater discharge permit requirements, the lagoon does not meet the design standards of MT DEQ and the collection system is afflicted with offset joints, cracks, broken pipes, service line protrusions and is an aging system with extensive amounts of clay pipe.

The Town of Lodge Grass is doing all it can to reduce the cost of these improvements and it is apparent that the town will need to move forward with this project and incur a large debt which will significantly raise user rates, which at this time is not affordable for the residents. Without TSEP funding our rates may raise as much as 204 percent to approximately \$86.62 per month depending on the final cost for the project. This is simply not affordable for the residents in the Town of Lodge Grass and we need the help of both the TSEP and RRGL Program grants to minimize this impact to our residents, especially for our low income residents and elders on a fixed income. We strongly urge the committee to fund our project; it is very important to the Town of Lodge Grass.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time and giving us the

chance to present this very important wastewater project, which is important not only to myself but to the entire Town of Lodge Grass. We are like many other communities, in that these very expensive projects simply cannot be affordable without the help of TSEP and RRGL programs.

Sincerely yours,

  
Henry Speelman  
Mayor; Town of Lodge Grass  
PO Box 255  
Lodge Grass MT 59050  
406.639.2362  
lgcityhall@yahoo.com



## City of White Sulphur Springs

PO Box 442  
105 W Hampton  
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645-0442

Phone: (406) 547-3911 Fax: (406) 547-3945 E-mail: [wss@mtintouch.net](mailto:wss@mtintouch.net)

January 30, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

As the Mayor of White Sulphur Springs, I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit this letter to the House Appropriations Committee regarding the City of White Sulphur Springs Wastewater Improvements Project. The City of White Sulphur Springs is currently under an Administrative Order on Compliance (AOC) from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for a history of violations of its wastewater discharge permit. The violations include significant exceedences of the discharge permit's numeric limitations, resulting in threats to public health and the environment. Furthermore, the City will be subject to a renewed discharge in 2013 that will impose additional limitations that the current wastewater treatment facility cannot hope to meet.

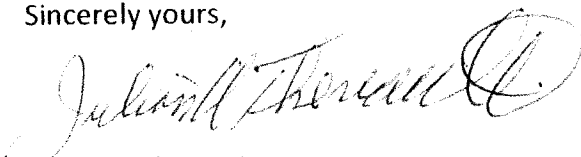
In response to the AOC and in recognition of its responsibility to protect the headwaters of one of Montana's most cherished river systems, the Smith River, White Sulphur applied for grant funds from the Montana Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) and the DNRC Renewable Resource Grant/Loan Program in order to implement the first phase of an overall multi-million dollar wastewater system reconstruction project. The first critical phase involves rehabilitating the City's wastewater collection system in order to remove excess infiltration & inflow so that the second phase (wastewater treatment and disposal) can be appropriately sized and cost-effective.

Whereas the City was successful in obtaining a \$100,000 grant from DNRC/RRGL, it was barely out of the fundable portion of TSEP's 2015 project list. This funding shortfall of \$460,500.00, along with a relatively low median-household-income, has left White Sulphur Springs with a funding dilemma that disallows implementation of the first phase of the proposed project. Without beginning the collection system work as quickly as possible, the City will prolong its permit non-compliance and will further exacerbate the public health and environmental risks due to its poorly-treated wastewater discharge.

White Sulphur Springs has a population of 984 residents and 443 households. The proposed user rate without TSEP funding would raise the rates to \$71.49; this is simply not affordable for the residents in the City of White Sulphur Springs. We need the help of both the TSEP and RRGL Program grants to minimize this impact to our residents, especially for our low income residents and elders on a fixed income. We strongly urge the committee to fund our project; it is very important to myself and all the residents of White Sulphur Springs.

Thank you again for your time and giving White Sulphur Springs the chance to present this very important wastewater project

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Julian A. Theriault". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Julian A. Theriault  
Mayor; White Sulphur Springs

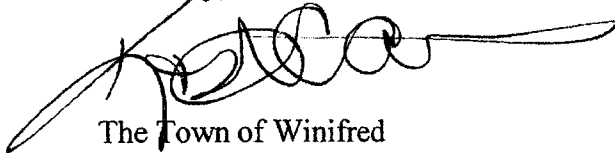
TOWN OF WINIFRED  
Incorporated  
P.O. Box 181; 210 Main Street  
Winifred, Montana 59489  
(406) 462-5425  
[townwini@mtintouch.net](mailto:townwini@mtintouch.net)

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
State Capital  
Helena, Montana 59620

Representative Duane Ankney,,

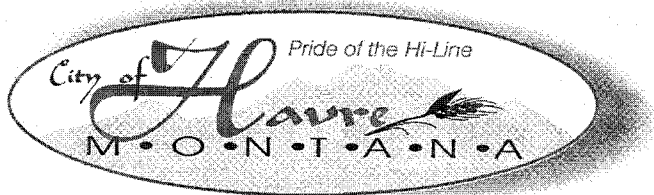
The Town of Winifred hereby supports House Bill 11 and the proposal to fund all 49 projects on the submittal list. Our community's wastewater treatment facility is more than 50 years old and desperately needs to be replaced with a new, functioning system that meets today's MDEQ and EPA standards. We appreciate your consideration in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristin Carlstrom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Town of Winifred

Kristin Carlstrom  
Town Clerk



Tim Solomon  
Mayor  
406.265.6710

January 31, 2013

Margaret Hencz  
City Judge  
406.265.8575

Representative Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

David Peterson  
Public Works Director  
406.265.4941

Dear Chairman Ankney:

Douglas Kaercher  
Finance Director/Clerk  
406.265.6719

On behalf of the City of Havre, I would like to express my gratitude to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning for their support of HB 11 and allowing us the opportunity to testify on behalf of our wastewater project. Additionally, I would like to commend the committee on their decision to vote in favor of funding all projects for Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) funding. As the City of Havre was below the original funding line, we ask that you support the proposed amendments to add all projects as we are in serious need of the improvements to our infrastructure.

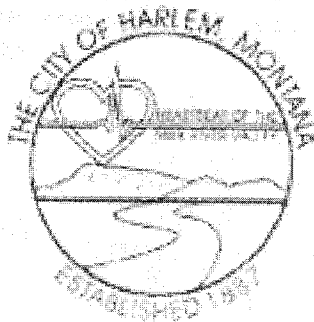
Chris Inman  
Parks & Recreation  
Director  
406.265.5781

The City of Havre's wastewater project will expand the current system while meeting the new effluent discharge requirements of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Whereas the City of Havre will have to raise user rates as a result of this project, this increase will not be as drastic with TSEP funding. In addition, our project will address a serious health and safety issue of our community, providing a quality essential service to our residents, and promoting growth of the economy.

Thank you for your time and support. If I can answer any questions, please contact me at (406)265-6719.

Sincerely,

Tim Solomon  
Mayor



## THE CITY OF HARLEM

A Municipal Corporation

*The Heartbeat of the Milk River Valley*

10 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW

PO Box 579

Harlem, Montana 59526

406-353-2361 (Office) – 406-353-2863(Fax)

January 31, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Ankney:

On behalf of the City of Harlem, I would like to express my gratitude to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning for their support of HB 11 and allowing us the opportunity to testify on behalf of our wastewater treatment plant project. Additionally, I would like to commend the committee on their decision to vote in favor of funding all projects for Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) funding. As the City of Harlem was below the original funding line, we ask that you support the proposed amendments to add all projects as we are in dire need of the improvements to our infrastructure.

The City's waste water treatment plant project will upgrade the treatment facility as well as eliminate the treated effluent having to be put into the Milk River. While the City might possibly have to raise user rates as a result of this project, this increase will not be near as drastic with TSEP funding.

In addition, our project will address a serious health and safety issue of our community, provide a quality essential service to our residents, and promote growth of the economy. Although the City has a population of only 800 people, it serves the needs of a much larger community and all will benefit greatly from improved infrastructure. Money spent on infrastructure improvement is the quickest way to inject money into the economy and put people to work.

Thank you for your time and support. If I can answer any questions, please contact me at (406) 353-2361.

Regards,

William J. Taylor, Mayor



PO BOX 1200  
MONTANA, MT. 59601

Crossroads of the Hi-Line  
406-654-1251

Shyla L. Jones, Mayor  
William Crowder, Councilman  
David Rummel, Councilman

Carolyn Schmoeckel, Clerk/Treasurer  
Bonnie Wiederrick, Councilperson  
Warren Abrahamson, Councilman

January 31, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, Mt. 59620-0400

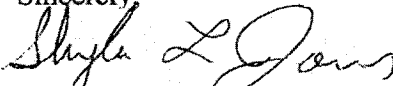
Dear Chairman Ankney,

On behalf of the City of Malta, I would like to thank the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning for their support of HB 11 and allowing us the opportunity to testify on behalf of our water project. I would like to commend the committee on their decision to vote in favor of funding all the projects for Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) funding. The City of Malta project ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 49 applications, below the proposed funding level. We ask that you support the proposed amendments to add all projects for funding.

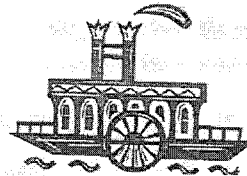
The City of Malta water project is composed of several phases. Phase One is to replace water lines in the downtown area that have experienced severe breakage over the years. The water lines are very old with Malta having celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009. The water breaks are a great aggravation and inconvenience to the businesses and citizens. Also included in Phase One is the replacement of the water main that serves the Hi-line Retirement Center, Health Clinic and Hospital complex. The water flow does not meet codes for fire suppression. The city has experienced several major fires within the city limits that could have had devastating effects if not contained. The city wishes to approach this issue in a proactive way which will be possible with TSEP funding.

Thank you for your time and support. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at 654-1251.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Shyla L. Jones

# City of Fort Benton



1204 Front Street  
P.O. Box 8 Fort Benton, Montana 59442  
Phone: (406) 622-5494  
Fax: (406) 622-5496  
fbenton@ttc-cmc.net

January 30, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400

Dear Chairman Ankney:

On behalf of the City of Fort Benton, I would like to express my gratitude to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning for their support of HB 11 and for allowing us the opportunity to testify on behalf of the City of Fort Benton's wastewater project. Additionally, I would like to commend the committee on their decision to vote in favor of funding all projects for Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) funding. We strongly support that decision.

Fort Benton's project is to rehabilitate its existing wastewater treatment facility to meet DEQ standards. While we will have to increase user rates as a result of this project, this increase will not be as drastic with TSEP funding. In addition, our project will address a serious health and safety issue of our community, provide a quality essential service to our residents, and promote growth of the economy.

Thank you for your time and support. If I can answer any questions, please contact me at 406.622.5494.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard D. Morris".

Richard D. Morris  
Mayor  
City of Fort Benton

Birthplace of Montana

# City of Chinook

Jamie Neibauer, Mayor

Mark Harshman, City Attorney

Lorraine Mulonet, City Clerk Treasurer

P.O. Box 1177

Chinook, Montana 59523-1177

(406) 357-3160

Fax (406) 357-3162

Keith Hanson, Councilperson

Jack Conner, Councilperson

Shawna Broadhead, Councilperson

Heath Richman, Councilperson

January 31, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Ankney:

On behalf of the City of Chinook, I would like to express my gratitude to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on long Range Planning for their support of HB 11 and allowing us the opportunity to testify on behalf of our water project. Additionally, I would like to commend the committee on their decision to vote in favor of funding **all** projects for Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) funding. While the City of Chinook was above the original funding line, we strongly support the proposed amendments to add all projects.

The City of Chinook's water project is to upgrade our system so as to deal with the issue of by-product disinfection. While the City of Chinook will have to raise user rates as a result of this project, the TSEP funding will help defray a portion of the increase. In addition, our project will address a serious health and safety issue of our community, provide a quality essential service to our residents, and promote growth of the economy.

Thank you for your time and support. If I can answer any questions, please contact me at 406-357-3160.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Mulonet  
City Clerk/Treasurer

## City of Chinook

Jamie Neibauer, Mayor

Mark Harshman, City Attorney

Lorraine Mulonet, City Clerk Treasurer

P.O. Box 1177

Chinook, Montana 59523-1177

(406) 357-3160

Fax (406) 357-3162

Keith Hanson, Councilperson

Jack Conner, Councilperson

Shawna Broadhead, Councilperson

Heath Richman, Councilperson

January 31, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Ankney,

On behalf of the City of Chinook Water Treatment Plant, I would like to thank the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning for their support of HB11 and the opportunity to testify on behalf of our Water Treatment Plant project. I would also like to commend the committee on their decision to vote in favor of funding all projects for Treasure State Endowment Program funding. The City of Chinook strongly supports the proposed amendment to add all projects.

The proposed improvements for the Chinook Water Treatment Plant, including back up power source, enhanced treatment processes, UV disinfection and a more reliable operating system, is very important to provide reliable, safe, compliant drinking water to the City of Chinook. While the City of Chinook will have to raise user rates as a result of this project, this increase will not be as drastic with TSEP funding.

Thank you for your time and support, If I can answer any questions, please contact me at 357-2120

Regards,  
Cory Fox  
Water Superintendent

# Opportunity Link

*Uniting people. Linking resources. Fighting poverty.*

January 31, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Ankney and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

I am confident that you are astutely aware of the essential need to provide Montana communities with the resources to address the critical infrastructure projects that are included in HB 11 for the Treasure State Endowment Program. It is my hope that you and the members of the House Appropriations Committee will fully support HB 11 and the financial assistance that this legislation will make available to local government infrastructure projects.

Opportunity Link, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that represents a large area of northcentral Montana and works with community and economic development entities, as well as others, to make our communities vibrant, livable and prepared for the future. A comprehensive community planning process involving hundreds of Northcentral Montana residents was utilized in the development of Opportunity Link's Strategic plan. Upgrading and maintaining infrastructure in the region was identified during the development of our plan as an essential part of creating and maintaining healthy communities. In a very real way, there is nothing more fundamental and important than assuring that a community's physical infrastructure can properly serve its residents as well as future growth opportunities. That is precisely what the TSEP has been doing since its inception in the 1990's.

A strategic partner of ours is Bear Paw Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization in northern Montana that serves a five-county, two-reservation area and is federally designated as an Economic Development District. Bear Paw has been working with the communities of northern Montana since the 1960's on their infrastructure needs. This year is no exception. Through their grant writing, eight separate TSEP proposals are included in HB 11, all for quality projects that include drinking water systems, wastewater systems and bridges. These projects will assist the following local government entities with their infrastructure needs: Blaine County, Chouteau County, City of Malta, City of Harlem, City of Havre, City of Chinook, City of Fort Benton and Hill County North Havre RSIDs. The legislation also authorizes the appropriation of funds to support the Rocky Boys-North Central Montana regional water authority.

HB 11 represents the only option for securing financial assistance to address these worthwhile projects. They are critically important to these communities, our region and the State of Montana.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Barb Stiffarm  
Executive Director